Mr. N. Narayana Kurup : May I know why the number of assessments is confidential ?

Rajyasevapravina G. Parameswaran Pillai : It is kept confidential.

President : Income Tax returns are kept confidential.

Alleppey-Shertallai Canal.

121. ***Mr. N. Narayana Kurup :** Will the Government be pleased to state :

(*a*) whether the P. W. D. Advisory Committee has recommended for the completion of the Alleppey-Shertallai Canal.

(*b*) whether such a recommendation was disapproved by Government ;

(*c*) if so, why it was disapproved ;

(*d*) whether they have received a mass memorial signed by about 10,000 persons of Shertallai to complete the above canal, and

(*e*) if so, what steps have been taken on the memorial ?

Mr. I. C. Chacko (*Chief Engineer, P. W. D.*) : (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) Yes,

(*c*) The conditions relating to transport and agricultural needs have changed on account of the Alleppey-Aroor road and the many cross canals that have been opened. Also the old alignment is faulty and the whole length of the canal will have to be opened afresh. Considering that most of the benefits, which this canal was expected to bring in have already been realised and that the cost of opening the whole length will not be commensurate with the advantages likely to ensue, Government have decided not to proceed with the work.

(*d*) A memorial has been received.

(*e*) Please see answer to part (c).

Mr. N. Narayana Kurup : May I know how the existence of a road has changed the transport and agricultural needs of a country ?

Mr. I. C. Chacko : The road is fit for carts and lorry traffic and there are also a number of cross roads and canals. They have improved facilities for transport.

Mr. N. Narayana Kurup : May I know whether the agricultural and irrigation needs can be met by the existence of roads, cross roads and canals alone ?

Mr. I. C. Chacko : Yes, they are partly met.

Mr. N. Narayana Kurup : May I know from the member when it was known to Government that the alignment was faulty ?

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Mr. I. C. Chacko : That is why the work has been abandoned.

Mr. N. Narayana Kurup : That is not my question. My question is when it was known to the Government that the alignment is faulty ?

Mr. I. C. Chacko : About 15 or 20 years ago.

Mr. N. Narayana Kurup : May I know from the member whether it was brought to the notice of the P. W. D. Advisory Committee when the matter was taken up for consideration ?

Mr. I. C. Chacko : Yes.

Mr. N. Narayana Kurup : I challenge. That fact was not brought to the notice of the Advisory Committee when we discussed the whole matter. A sub-committee was appointed to enquire into the details. But this matter was not brought to the notice of the Committee.

Mr. I. C. Chacko : I do not quite follow the member.

Mr. N. Narayana Kurup : The honourable member was telling that this matter—that alignment was faulty—was brought to the notice of the Advisory Committee. I challenge that statement. I was a member of that committee for two years and the matter was taken up for consideration while I was a member of the committee. But this particular point was not brought to the notice of the Committee.

Mr. I. C. Chacko : That particular point has been brought to the notice of the Advisory Committee at its meeting. I was present at the meeting. The fact was mentioned at that meeting.

Mr. N. Narayana Kurup : May I know whether the proceedings of the committee are with the Chief Engineer or in the office so that it may be placed before the House.

Mr. I. C. Chacko : A note is available in the file.

Mr. N. Narayana Kurup : May I know from the member whether one ton buses and heavy lorries are allowed to ply through the Shertallai-Aroor road ?

Mr. I. C. Chacko : Yes, they are allowed. In fact one ton buses are running on that line.

Mr. N. Narayana Kurup : The heavy lorries ?

Mr. I. C. Chacko : Up to a certain limit. I do not exactly remember the limit now.

Mr. N. Narayana Kurup : May I know how then he ventured to answer that the transport facilities have been satisfied by the existence of the Alleppey-Aroor road ?

Mr. I. C. Chacko : The comparison is with a time when there was no road at all.

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Mr. N. Narayana Kurup: May I know from the member whether he considers transport by canal cheaper or costlier than road transport?

Mr. I. C. Chacko: Certainly transport by water is cheaper.

Mr. N. Narayana Kurup: May I know from the member whether transport by the existence of this canal will not be cheaper than the road transport?

Mr. K. G. Kunjukrishna Pillai (*Legal Remembrancer*): Sir, I rise to a point of order. All these supplementary questions do not arise out of the questions and answers given. We have travelled far from the questions and answers given.

President: How?

Mr. K. G. Kunjukrishna Pillai: The question is whether the existence of the canals will make traffic cheaper.

President: It arises.

Mr. I. C. Chacko: Even now there is facility for water transport from Alleppey to Cochin.

Mr. N. Narayana Kurup: May I know whether it is safer to travel through Vembanad lake?

Mr. I. C. Chacko: Except during heavy monsoon it will be safe.

Mr. N. Narayana Kurup: May I know which is safer,—route by canal or by Vembanad lake?

Mr. I. C. Chacko: Route by canal is certainly safer but there are ever so many other difficulties.

Alleppey-Shertallai Canal.

122. ***Mr. N. Narayana Kurup:** Will the Government be pleased to state;

(*a*) the total length of the formerly proposed Alleppey-Shertallai canal;

(*b*) the length of the canal actually cut out;

(*c*) the area of the land acquired by Government for the canal;

(*d*) the total amount paid as compensation for the acquired land;

(*e*) whether Government proposes to complete the canal;

(*f*) the estimated cost for completing the canal at pre-war rates;

(*g*) the estimated cost at the present rates; and

(*h*) if the answer to part (*c*) is in the negative whether the acquired lands would be returned to the original owners if they are prepared to remit the cost received as compensation?

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